

### Expedition to Central Africa.

Further communications have been received from Dr. Barth, from Timbuktu, giving an account of his protracted sojourn at that dangerous place. The date of the present letters is two months more recent than that of the first letters despatched thence. They reach up to the 15th of December last. They contain the gratifying news that this indefatigable and courageous traveller had regained his full health and strength. He writes that he would have quitted Timbuktu long ago,—a place where his life was greatly exposed to the effects of an unfavourable climate, and much more so to the dangers arising from the hostile disposition towards Christians of the most fanatical Mahomedan population of Northern Africa,—were it not that he would have before him certain death, and share the fate of the unfortunate Major Lang, if he left Timbuktu without sufficient protection. The murder of that excellent officer was instigated by the Fullan (or Fellhas) of Hamud-Allahi, a tribe living south-west from Timbuktu, the same faction that is much opposed to Dr. Barth. These Hamd Allah Fullan had received from their chief the most peremptory order to effect the capture of the traveller, and bring him to his head-quarters, whether dead or alive. For they had expressed their disbelief in the pretended character of Dr. Barth being an ambassador from Stamboul; and they had demanded all his papers, to ascertain whether they substantiated what the Sheikh el Bakay had caused the great man of the people to believe. Hitherto their hostility has availed nothing, owing to the protection of Sheikh el Bakay, and to the energetic bearing as well as the unceasing watchfulness of Dr. Barth himself. Unhappily the renowned Sheikh has no military power of any kind, his authority consisting solely of an extensive spiritual influence over a great portion of Western Sudan. Dr. Barth, therefore, and his own small retinue, are almost at all times well armed and ready to resist effectively any sudden attack. It is greatly to be regretted that Dr. Barth is not in possession of a letter from the "Sultan of Stamboul," inasmuch as he states most emphatically that he would then not be in the least molested by any of the Mohammedan inhabitants. He hoped, however, to be able to depart from Timbuktu by the close of the year, and thus be freed from a situation which must at once be highly detrimental to mind and body.

While preparing the present letters Dr. Barth had the great joy to receive Auab, the mighty chief of the Tingeregif, a Tuavrick tribe inhabiting the regions east of Timbuktu along the Kowara, or Isa Balleo as it is more properly called there. That long-expected chief came, on the bidding of El Bakay, as the traveller's protector, with a welcome escort of 100 horsemen, to see him safely through his dominions, on his way back to Sakatu. The news of Dr. Vogel having been despatched from Europe to join him, had also reached Timbuktu, and given him the utmost delight.

Dr. Barth had collected a great mass of information, and drawn up various maps; of both of which he sent a small but valuable portion on this occasion. There are no further news from the party under Dr. Vogel; but ample communications may be expected in the course of the present month.

AUGUSTUS PETERMAN.

### Mining Statistics—Coal, Copper, &c.

Coal may be justly considered the most important mineral product, and 265,198 persons were employed in Great Britain in 1851, either in extracting it from the earth, distributing it amongst the consumers, or manufacturing it into coke or gas. The owners of collieries are returned as 703 in number; agents and factors, 2,342; coal miners or colliers, 150,722 men; 65,641 youths, or 216,366 in the aggregate; 10,507 persons are returned as coal merchants or dealers, and 11,691 as coal heavers or coal labourers. Besides this enumeration, 1752 men are returned as coke burners or dealers, and 113 as charcoal burners. The census also presents to us 19,860 men, and 3,173 youths as stone quarriers; 2811 men as stone cutters; 6,442 as slate quarriers; 5623 as limestone quarriers or burners; 1827 as marble masons; 23,371 men and 6586 youths as brickmakers; and 2338 as plate layers.

The copper miners are 18,468—17,127 men, and 5700 youths; those engaged in the manufacture of copper are 2115, and the copper-smiths, 14,443—3918 females, namely, 1565 women, and 2353 girls, are returned under the class of copper miners, a number exceeding the females returned as coal miners, amounting only to 2649. Another sub-class presents 12,912 tin miners,—8607 men, 4305 youths, besides 843 women, and 1295 girls. The lead miners are 16,680 men, 4997 youths, 400 women, and 513 girls. These are, of course, exclusive of the very extensive classes engaged in the manufacture and working of

these several metallic products. Our limits will not permit us to pursue this enquiry, or present an enumeration of the vast variety of arts connected with metallic manufactures, particularly those of iron and steel. We have confined ourselves to the leading classes of our mining population, and the rapid improvement and commercial increase in England within the last half century demonstrates the great national advantages which the empire derives from their labours. To ameliorate their lot, to improve their social condition, and to render their lives and persons comparatively secure in the perilous employments to which they are destined, have been objects to which we have long earnestly devoted our efforts. While it is the painful duty of this Journal to record, week after week, fatal casualties in our coal mines, attended with lamentable consequences, we feel for the infirmities of our nature, when we admit that the men who are the sufferers are, generally, also the authors of those calamities. To their reckless disregard to the most solemn admonitions, to their careless contempt for the most appalling examples, can, in almost every instance, be traced the causes of colliery explosions—a total disregard of human life, substituting the certainty of mischief in the naked candle for the almost unerring security of the safety-lamp. This deplorable want of prudence, this deficiency in due discipline, can only be fairly met by improved training and early cultivation. It is the imperative duty, therefore, as well as the decided interest of the colliery proprietors, amounting to so large a body in number as the census presents to us to introduce and encourage amongst the coal mining population—classes mutually dependent on each other—a system of education commensurate with their requirements.—*Mining Journal.*

### Report of the British Emigration Commissioners.

The annual report of the Emigration Commissioners has just been published. From this it appears that the total emigration of last year was 329,937, being 38,827 less than in 1852. There was a diminution of 26,480 to Australia, and 13,376 to the United States, the falling off being accounted for in the case of Australia by the greater excitement regarding the gold discoveries prevalent during the summer and autumn of 1852, and in that of the United States by the departure of a smaller number of Irish, the aggregate emigration of the latter people throughout the year being estimated at 199,392 against 224,997 in 1852. The remittances from their relatives in America were, however, larger than in any previous year, the amount sent through the various banks, apart from private channels, being £1,439,000. With respect to the Australian emigration, the total from the united kingdom to all the colonies was 61,401, or about one-fourth of that of the United States. Subjoined are the general figures:—

United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	230,885
Australia—									
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,673
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,469
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,883
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	965
Van Diemen's Land	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	991
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,120
									61,401
Canada, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,522
East Indies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	928
Central and South America	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	833
West Indies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600
Cap of Good Hope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	369
Western Africa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	308
Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Hongkong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
									329,937

According to a supplementary statement, it also appears that the emigration during the first three months of the present year has been 49,756 persons, against 60,867 in the corresponding period of 1853, and 59,523 in that of 1852. There has been a continued diminution in the departures to the United States, but in those to Australia, although there is a great falling off as compared with the first quarter of last year, there is a considerable increase as compared with the first quarter of 1852. Of the total, 49,756 emigrants, 26,128 were Irish, 12,430 English, 2,965 Scotch, and 8,233 foreign or unspecified. This proportion of Irish is much smaller than in 1852 or 1853.—*Evening Mail.*